

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated August 6, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by International Publication No. 98/38547 (Faris). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly anticipated by Faris. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1-11 and 13-14 are allowable for the following reasons.

It is noted that Faris has more than 50 figures and 119 pages of text qualifying this patent as "complex". Therefore, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.104, the Examiner must indicate how the reference is being applied. Since the reference is complex, Applicants will

confine their remarks to those portions cited by the Examiner, except as otherwise indicated. Applicants make no representation as to the contents of other portions of the reference.

Faris is directed towards an electro-optical glazing structure having total-reflection, semi-transparent and totally-transparent modes of operation (Abstract). FIG. 14 shows layers 28A and 28B and FIGs. 10 and 10E of Faris shows a retardation layer 21 between elements 22A and 22B. Even, in arguendo, if the element 22B is considered a switchable polarizer, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a switchable polarizer located between the polarizing mirror and a $1/4 \lambda$ foil as required by claim 1 of the present application. This requirement is simply not disclosed or suggested in Faris. At best, Faris merely shows element 22B next to retardation layer 21.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Faris. For example, Faris does not disclose or suggest, a system that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) a

polarizing mirror for viewing purposes having a first plane reflecting light of a first kind of polarization to a viewing side, the polarizing

mirror passing light of a second kind of polarization and being provided with a display device at its non-viewing side, which display device during use provides light of the second kind of polarization, the polarizing mirror being switchable between a state passing light of the second kind of polarization and reflecting light of the first kind of polarization and a state passing light of both kinds of polarization, wherein a switchable polarizer is located between the polarizing mirror and a $1/4 \lambda$ foil

as required by claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Faris and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-11 and 13-15 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of said claims.

For example, Faris does not disclose or suggest the polarizing mirror is switchable between a state passing light of the second kind of polarization and reflecting light of the first kind of polarization and a state passing light of both kinds of polarization, and the polarizing mirror is next to the switchable polarizer as recited in claim 14 of the present application.

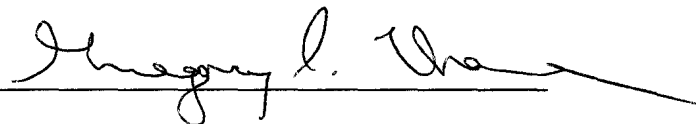
With regard to the rejection of claim 11 in numbered paragraph 17, on page 6 and 7 of the Final Office Action, the Final Office

Action states that element 22B can convert polarization states from linear-to-circular and circular-to-linear. The Applicants respectfully disagree. FIGs 10E-10F of Faris clearly show only circularly polarized (RHCP and LHCP) light passing through or reflecting from layer 22B. In particular, FIG 10E shows LHCP light reflecting and RHCP light passing through layer 22B and FIG 10F shows both LHCP and RHCP light passing through layer 22B. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion of linear-to-circular and circular-to-linear polarization state changes in FIGs 10E-10F of Faris. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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